

Testimony Submitted to the Appropriations Committee:

H.B. No. 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017.

Submitted By: Sandie Lavoy, Sr. Vice President of Community Rehabilitation Services, CW Resources, Inc

February 18, 2016

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Sandie Lavoy and I am the Sr. Vice President of Community Rehabilitation Services with CW Resources, Inc. I am sorry I am not able to be present to provide this testimony but appreciate the opportunity to submit this for your review and consideration.

CW Resources provides Employment and Day Supports throughout the State of CT to people with disabilities, primarily individuals with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities. Many of the individuals we support require continuous supervision in order to participate in activities that are meaningful, that are integrated in the community and that keep people safe – both those we serve and those within the community. We are among the 550+ member agencies of the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (CT Nonprofit Alliance.)

I would like to share my concerns with House Bill 5044: An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017. In particular, I want to express my sincere concerns to the funding reductions in the Department of Developmental Services. Employment and Day Services providers and Residential Providers have continuously received cuts in past years making it more difficult to provide the essential services to those we serve. This funding reduction will further threaten critical services to individuals and families and will continue to damage and weaken the safety net.

Annualizing the FY 2016 Deficit Mitigation and Lapses, the Governor is cutting millions from Employment Opportunities and Day Services, Behavioral Support Programs and opportunities for people to live in the community. Providers are faced with ongoing increases in the cost of doing business (unfunded mandates, increases in medical, worker's compensation, general liability insurance premiums and rising costs of living) without reimbursement and are often forced to make decisions which ultimately jeopardize the health and safety of those we serve.

If these changes and decreases are made, the result will be the continuation of destabilization of the community based service system that so many of Connecticut's citizens rely on. People in desperate need cannot continue to bear this burden. People Matter! People deserve to be cared for and treated with quality services when they need them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information.

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